

Methamphetamine Newsletter

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November 2006

National Methamphetamine Awareness Day, November 30th

The United States Department of Justice has designated November 30, 2006 as the inaugural National Methamphetamine Awareness Day. Officials from the Department of Justice, including U.S. Attorneys, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and DEA Special Agents, will be hosting educational presentations around the country on National Meth Awareness Day. The Department is also partnering with its state and local law enforcement colleagues, community partners, and state and local leaders in this effort.

You can visit the new website at www.usdoj.gov/methawareness to see a comprehensive educational presentation on methamphetamine called "Meth 101", links which allow you to locate and contact your local U.S. Attorney's Office and DEA Field Office to collaborate with them in a localized event on National Methamphetamine Awareness Day and multiple links to organizations and community coalitions to help get involved.

San Juan County Initiates Meth Project

San Juan County, New Mexico has developed a pilot project that provides treatment for methamphetamine addiction and is embarking on the creation of a meth treatment facility to address this pressing issue at the local level. The project will be modeled on the success that the county has experienced with their Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) program and will function as a secure treatment option or probation requirement for individuals addicted to meth that enter the criminal justice system.

San Juan County, like many other counties across the country, has experienced a growing problem with meth addiction and with meth addicts cycling through their county jails. Because of the county's location in the northwest corner of the state, near the four corners area intersecting with Arizona, Utah and Colorado, local law enforcement has seen a high incidence of meth trafficking from Mexico through the area. The oil field industry that encompasses a large part of the local economy has been hit hard by meth addiction, affecting communities throughout the region. How to properly address this problem has been a major topic of discussion at public meetings throughout the county.

With momentum growing locally for action, the county organized a bipartisan effort from the state legislature to acquire funding to finance a methamphetamine pilot project based on the empirically-supported treatment strategy and protocols of San Juan County's DWI Program. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson supported the plan and the county is now taking steps towards creating a meth treatment facility separate from the county jail and will initiate the meth pilot project on November 1 of this year.

As a result of the increase in meth abuse, the county has seen a high number of children in protective services due to their parent's



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meth addiction. To combat this problem the pilot project will focus on women who are mothers of children in protective services to begin treatment with the return of their children being contingent upon successful completion of the program. A local district court judge has identified 13 females who have agreed to participate in the program. State and local services have created a collaborative strategy that leverages multi-agency resources for pre-admission screening and continuing care so that a case manager is already assigned 30 days before admission to the program.

The project will provide 60 days of gender appropriate inpatient substance abuse treatment, followed by at least 12 months of outpatient treatment, the first three of which will consist of intensive case management. The treatment strategy, sensitive to the engagement level and ability of the clients, will include individual and group therapy, life skills, substance abuse and health education, 12-Step programs, and training to obtain employment. Two experienced Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (LADACs) and two case managers have been hired to run the program. The meth pilot project, for now, will share a secure campus with the current DWI program in San Juan County.

Robert Mitchell, the Alternative Sentencing Division Administrator for the county's DWI Detention and Treatment Facility and Adult Compliance Program commented, "The meth project will be similar to the DWI program that has shown so much success in that its protocols will be largely interactive, motivational, and rely on the community reinforcement approach."

White House Drug Czar Recognizes Effective Montana Efforts Reducing Meth Production, Use

The White House National Drug Control Policy Director, John Walters, today announced significant progress in Montana in pushing back against the methamphetamine crisis. Recently released data shows a significant downturn in meth use and production, largely due to a balanced approach driven by public and private sector individuals and organizations.

Workplace drug testing data indicate a 73 percent decrease in the number of people testing positive for amphetamines, including methamphetamine, in Montana in the first five months of this year, compared to the same time period for 2005. Twenty-six of every 10,000 people tested in Montana tested positive for amphetamines January through May of 2006, compared to 96 of every 10,000 people testing positive January through May of 2005. Workplace drug test positives are an indicator of national drug use trends. Additionally, youth lifetime meth use in Montana dropped from 13.5 percent in 1999 to 8.3 percent in 2005—a 38 percent reduction—according to the CDC's 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

There has also been a dramatic downturn in meth lab incidents since the State's law regulating the sale of the precursor chemicals went into effect on July 1st, 2005. According to the El Paso Intelligence Center's Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System, Montana meth lab seizures decreased a staggering 77.3 percent from July 2005 through December 2005. During that period, there were just ten meth lab incidents throughout the State (as reported by the [White House Office of National Drug Control Policy](#)).



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Meth Cleanup Bill Likely Dead in the Water

The NACo-supported Meth Remediation Research Act (S. 2019) appears to be dead because of a hold placed on the bill by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.). With Congress in recess for the November elections, it is likely that the entire legislative process would need to start over next year in the first session of the 110th Congress.

A hold is an informal practice in the Senate that informs the leadership that a senator does not wish a particular bill to reach the floor. In this case, the bill was going to be brought up under a unanimous consent agreement until Coburn objected and stopped the bill from being considered.

The bi-partisan legislation would have authorized EPA to develop scientifically based voluntary cleanup standards for the remediation of former meth labs. Currently, there are no federal guidelines that advise property owners or state and local governments on the cleanup of former meth labs. Supporters of the legislation included NACo and key law enforcement organizations, such as the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Narcotics Officers of America Coalition.

Coburn's staff has cited two main concerns about the bill: that the \$18 million authorized for four years is excessive, and that this is not a federal responsibility. NACo and county officials in Oklahoma have tried to reassure Sen. Coburn's staff that the bill merely provides authorization and the Appropriations Committee would need to follow through the annual appropriations process. Additionally, while several states have begun to look at meth contamination issues, none have the scope or expertise of the EPA.

Beyond the voluntary guidelines, the legislation outlined two other provisions. The first instructed EPA to hold a conference for state and local agencies to discuss the cleanup guidelines and to ensure that they are meeting local needs. Secondly, the bill would have authorized the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop new methamphetamine field and site detection technologies (as reported by Joe Dunn, NACo's Associative Legislative Director in [County News](#)).

Officials: Most Meth in Iowa Comes From Mexico

Small-scale meth labs are vanishing, but there's been no reduction of the addictive drug that's plagued Iowa, law enforcement experts said at a congressional hearing Tuesday. Law officials told members of the Senate Finance Committee that 80 percent of meth now is manufactured in "super labs" in Mexico. Such labs can produce 10 pounds of meth in a day.

Cash is funneled back to Mexico, through money laundering or in bulk via small banks or casinos. Estimates are that \$3.2 billion to \$7.2 billion in drug profits wind up in Mexico and Colombia annually. "This is a weapon of mass destruction introduced by Mexican criminal organizations into this country," said Gregory Passic, director of the Office of Drug Interdiction for Customs and Border Protection at the Department of Homeland Security.



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A June survey by the National Association of Counties found that meth was the No. 1 illegal drug problem for half of counties and that it is moving east from the West and Midwest. Sean McCullough, special agent in charge of the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, said that laws cracking down on meth ingredients approved by Iowa lawmakers have produced a 72 percent reduction in the number of local meth labs. But McCullough said that even though meth seizures have declined, "Mexican drug trafficking organizations continue to dominate the state's illicit drug trade (as reported in the [Des Moines Register](#), September 13, 2006)."

Prevention Programs for Young Rural Teens Can Reduce Methamphetamine Abuse Years Later

New research supported in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health, shows that prevention programs conducted in middle school can reduce methamphetamine abuse among rural adolescents years later. Because methamphetamine addiction leads to problems with social interactions and a wide range of medical conditions, research into early interventions such as this is critical to protecting the Nation's youth. The paper is published in the September issue of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* (As Reported by the [National Institute of Drug Abuse](#)).

Resources

NACo's Meth Action Clearinghouse

NACo is committed to raising public awareness about and helping counties respond to the nation's methamphetamine drug epidemic. The increasingly widespread production, distribution and abuse of meth is now present in urban, suburban and rural communities nationwide.

NACo's [Meth Action Clearinghouse](#) provides information on federal, state and local efforts to combat the meth epidemic in America, as well as background information and useful links for counties seeking to mount or extend their campaigns against methamphetamine use. The Meth Action Clearinghouse is one facet of NACo's broad-ranging effort to help its member counties deal with the meth scourge in their communities.

Meth-Free Mesa County

This Colorado program aims to prevent and treat methamphetamine abuse in Mesa County. The county has formed a task force that focuses on implementing the best practices of prevention, law enforcement and treatment leading to maximal reductions of meth addiction, and its resultant destructive consequences.

The [Meth-Free Mesa County website](#) also provides information about the effects of methamphetamine and its impact on children who may come into contact with it.



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Butte County Methamphetamine Strike Force

The mission of the Butte County Methamphetamine Strike Force is to eliminate methamphetamine from Butte County, California by supporting local prevention, treatment and enforcement efforts. The Strike Force is also committed to educating the community about the significance of the meth problem in Butte County and the dangers the drug presents to the users and to the community at large.

Butte County's Strike Force is composed of a number of local mental health, law enforcement, drug and alcohol, public health and education agencies. The county's [Meth Strike Force website](#) contains data, statistics, treatment info, success stories and a wealth of other information on meth.

Montana Meth Project

The goal of the Montana Meth Project is to significantly reduce the prevalence of first-time methamphetamine use in Montana. The Montana Meth Project sustains a campaign of research-based public service messaging—including advertising, public relations, and websites—to effect a substantial reduction in methamphetamine use among Montana's youth.

The [Montana Meth Project](#) also conducts surveys and focus group research to more thoroughly understand Montanans' attitudes and behaviors related to methamphetamine. This research provides the foundation for their advertising/messaging programs.

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (NADEC) promotes the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) team concept and public awareness for the problems faced by these children. The Alliance provides multi-disciplinary training for communities interested in starting or expanding DEC programs. The Alliance supports a nationwide network of professionals serving drug endangered children by providing referrals to experts, updated research on topics concerning drug endangered children, and best practice information.

The [National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children website](#) has links to state and local groups, information on trainings and conferences, links to relevant research and a guide to starting a DEC program in your community.

PBS, Frontline – The Meth Epidemic

Frontline teamed up with the Portland newspaper *The Oregonian* to investigate how and why meth use spiraled out of control to become the fastest-growing drug abuse problem in the country. From the [Frontline site](#) on the meth problem, you can watch the program in full, read articles on what meth does to users physically, how the drug has spread across the country, and view interactive maps with state to state statistics.

You can also order a DVD of the program and teachers can obtain a "Teacher's Guide" that includes a lesson plan for middle or high school-aged children.



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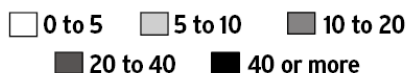
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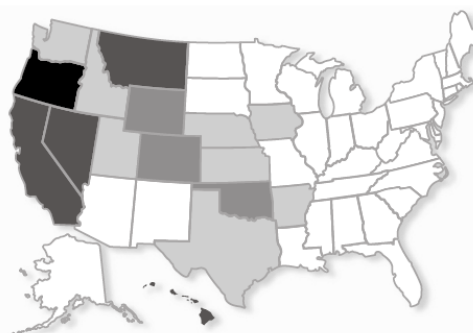
THE SPREAD OF METH

REHAB ADMISSIONS FOR METH PER 100,000 RESIDENTS



Methamphetamine abuse, as measured by the number of people entering rehab centers, spread eastward during the past decade while intensifying in the West. The maps below show the number of people treated for meth abuse per 100,000 residents age 12 and older.

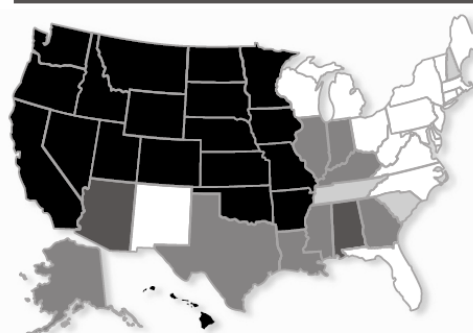
1992



1997



2002



DERRIK QUENZER, STEVE SUO/THE OREGONIAN

(As reported on the [Frontline site](#))



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Fighting Meth in America's Heartland: Assessing the Impact of Local Law Enforcement and Child Welfare Agencies

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, Committee on Government Reform (2005)

Part of a series of hearings on the subject of methamphetamine trafficking and abuse, this session was held to determine what federal, state and local support systems are needed to effectively combat this drug. Includes statements from federal agencies, national nonprofit organizations, and state and local child welfare agencies ([Committee on Government Reform](#)).

Drug Courts: An Effective Strategy for Communities Facing Methamphetamine

U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (2005)

Presents drug courts as the primary tool for fighting methamphetamine addiction and trafficking and helping children who are exposed to meth use by providing them with health-care, educational and child protective services. Contains a number of county examples of success ([Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)).

Sonoma County Methamphetamine Profile, Report to the Board of Supervisors

The Sonoma County, California Department of Health Services convened a multi-disciplinary workgroup with representatives from County Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Treatment, Family, Youth and Children Services, the Narcotic Task Force, Adult Detention, Public Defender, District Attorney and the Probation Department (July, 2006)

The report provides background on methamphetamine addiction and current information on production, distribution and sale of methamphetamine in Sonoma County. It highlights the scope and impacts of meth use on the community and the county services systems and discusses the use of "best practices" in AOD prevention and treatment ([Sonoma County website](#)).

Methamphetamine Abuse and Addiction

National Institute on Drug Abuse (2002)

As part of their Methamphetamine Research Initiative, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has developed this publication to provide an overview of the scientific findings on methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive stimulant associated with serious health conditions, including memory loss, aggression, psychotic behavior, and potential heart and brain damage; it also contributes to increased transmission of hepatitis and HIV/AIDS.

One of NIDA's most important goals is to translate what scientists learn from research to help the public better understand drug abuse and addiction and to develop more effective strategies for their prevention and treatment ([National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)).



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The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities

National Association of Counties (July, 2006)

NACo's latest survey on the Meth Epidemic in America explores the impact of meth use on local criminal justice systems and the communities they serve ([NACo's Meth Action Clearinghouse](#)).

Methamphetamine Use Increasing Among Federal and State Prisoners

Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Prior methamphetamine use among state and federal prisoners has increased since 1997, according to a new report by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The use of methamphetamines in the month before an offense rose from 7 percent of state prisoners in 1997 to 11 percent in 2004. Methamphetamine use at the time of an offense rose from 4 percent to 6 percent during that period. Federal inmates reported similar increases in methamphetamine use ([Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)).

Funding Opportunities

Minnesota Methamphetamine Laboratory Cleanup Revolving Fund

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development offers loans made to cities and counties on a first-come, first-served basis and can be made only to entities with local clandestine lab or public health nuisance ordinances that address meth lab remediation ([Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development](#)).

Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) offers these grants to reduce crimes associated with the distribution and use of alcohol and controlled substances in tribal communities. Applicants are limited to federally recognized tribal governments. Due date: January 4, 2007 ([Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)).

Events/Training Opportunities

Third Annual Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Conference

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Date: November 27-29, 2006. Location: Nashville, Tennessee.

This year's conference will focus on building a framework necessary to provide sustainability for DEC initiatives at the national, state and local level ([National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children](#)).



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Fourth Annual Meth Awareness Conference

Date: January 10-12, 2007. Location: Casper, Wyoming.

This conference is directed towards professionals in social service fields, first responders, educators, business owners and the community at large and will address such topics as prevention, drug endangered children, women who use meth while pregnant, treatment, and additional medical issues surrounding meth use ([Casper, Wyoming](#) website).

Meth Lab Recognition and Personal Safety

Colorado Department of Human Services. Date: January 8, 2007. Location: Denver, Colorado.

This class will help participants (first responders, health/human service providers, advocates) understand the medical effects of methamphetamine, recognize the signs of a meth lab, and learn the appropriate steps to take to protect themselves and their families ([Colorado Department of Human Services](#)).

The purpose of this monthly electronic newsletter is to provide county officials, administrators, criminal justice and mental health professionals, and other interested parties relevant information on the nation's methamphetamine problem. Information is gathered from many sources each month through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. If you have questions or comments regarding the content of this newsletter, please send a message to jcarmody@naco.org.